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WATER WHEELS OF SYRIA

Move on Simple Principle But Do the Work Required of Them Most Effectually.

Hama, in northern Syria, referred to in the Old Testament as Hamath the Great, is justly famous for its huge water wheels. The city lies some 110 miles northeast of Damascus on the River Orontes, and upon its banks are four large water wheels used for drawing water for irrigating purposes and also for supplying the town. These wheels are driven by the flow of the river on what is known as the undershot principle; that is to say, the wheel is moved by water passing beneath it.

The largest has a diameter of 75 feet. Upon its outer rim is a series of buckets which raise the water and deposit it in the aqueduct at the top. Like its companion the wheel is built of mahogany, with an axle of iron. The creaking of the wheels is incessant day and night, year in and year out, for they never stop.

It is interesting to note that wheels built on this same principle are in actual use in this country, in one of the fertile valleys of California.—Popular Science Monthly.

ANCIENT TEMPLE GAVE NAME

Ammonia Was First Manufactured in the Vicinity of the Oasis of Jupiter Ammon.

The Libyan oasis of Siwah is identical with the ancient oasis of Jupiter Ammon, where, near the famous temple or oracle, the "vehement odor" of Pliny was first manufactured by a process too inelegant for description here.

Ammon, at first a pet deity of the Pharaoh family circle, ultimately eclipsed all the other deities of Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia, becoming "king of the gods," and his oracle in the present oasis of Siwah achieved such celebrity that Alexander the Great considered it necessary to journey thither after the battle of Issus in order to be acknowledged the "son of God Ammon." The oracle fell into disrepute under the Romans, and Pausanias reported it dumb A. D. 160. The ruins of the temple are to be seen today two miles east of the town of Siwah. The Senussi long dominated the oasis.

John Adams a Hard Loser.

John Adams, second president of the United States, was not a good loser. He wanted another term, and worked hard for it. None of the candidates received a majority of the electoral votes, and the election was thrown into the house of representatives. But Adams had no choice there, for he was third in the race, and only the two having the highest number of electoral votes could be voted for. Thus the choice lay between Jefferson and Burr, and Jefferson won. Adams was very much disgruntled, and did everything in his power to make things unpleasant for his successor. He filled every vacant office he could lay his hands on, so as to leave as little patronage as possible for Jefferson. Not only so, but in the closing hours of his administration he and his party associates created twenty-three new judgeships, for which there was no necessity, and worked till the stroke of midnight on March 3d filling out and signing commissions for these "midnight judges," as they were called.

Horrors at Home.

"The football tournament between the teams of Harvard and Yale, recently held in America, had terrible results. It turned into an awful butchery. Of twenty-two participants, seven were so severely injured that they had to be carried from the field in a dying condition. One player had his back broken, another lost an eye, and a third lost a leg. Both teams appeared upon the field with a crowd of ambulances, surgeons, and nurses. Many ladies fainted at the awful cries of the injured players. The indignation of the spectators was powerful, but they were so terrorized that they were afraid to leave the field."

One wonders whether the Munchener Nachrichten, which printed the foregoing in its columns in the year 1893, would have had room for it last fall.—New York Tribune.

The Scratched Bishop.

Talking of printers' blunders, Doctor Frodsham, lately Bishop of North Queensland, tells in his reminiscences, "A Bishop's Pleasance," the following story:

"At one time in Queensland there was a racehorse called His Lordship. Two telegrams, one relating to me and another to the quadruped, followed each other without break in the columns of a local paper. To the best of my memory the agglomerate paragraph read as follows: 'Bishop Frodsham is down with an attack of fever in Cairns. His lordship is scratched for all events.'"

Couplet Easily Completed.

When a popular sea captain had died four leading men of the hamlet were selected to write an epitaph, and it was decided that each should write a line. The first wrote his easily. The second puzzled a little, then he wrote his. The third followed even more slowly. But the fourth wrote as if inspired, and the whole verse read:

Here lies the captain of the sea,
Here lies him, here lies he,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
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KNOW HOW TO SAY GOOD-BY

When Time Comes to Go Don't Try to Be Diplomatic About It, Prisoner Says.

Nothing is more embarrassing than not to know how to say good-by. The predicament places one at a gross disadvantage. He becomes awkward, clumsy, floundering. His hands are hams and his fingers swollen frankfurters. He stands round ready and willing to go, but doesn't know how to break away. He wants to go, feels that others would like to see him vamoose, that he has overstayed his welcome and that his presence is a trespass on hospitality, but he stammers, halts, hesitates, mumbles and is all mopped up over the matter of saying good-by and getting out.

He would thank his lucky stars if some "bouncer" would come along and end the agony by throwing him out. Now, remember, there's only one thing to do in a case like that, when you have got a thing to say, say it. Just say "Good-by" and be honest and not diplomatic about it and see how nicely you settle the difficulty.—From the New Era, Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth.

ANTS PROVIDED WITH LIGHT

Curious Phenomenon That Has for Some Time Attracted Attention of Scientists.

There has been observed a curious phenomenon connected with the nests of the Brazilian white ants or termites. These, when seen on the headwaters of the Rio Verde, seem to be covered with tiny stars, which give the nest the aspect of a miniature tower brilliantly illuminated. When the nest is struck with a stick the lights go out, only to reappear again little by little.

Castelnau, in the middle of the last century, reported a similar spectacle near the city of Goyaz. According to his account, the lights were produced by an immense number of small phosphorescent larvae, which withdrew into the galleries of the mound when an attempt was made to capture them. It has been pointed out by several authorities that these exhibitions are probably confined to some particular species or to some special occasion or conditions of termite life, since many scientists have spent considerable periods of investigation in Brazil without seeing them.

When "Honesty" Paid.

The secretary of the New York Prison association tells of the answer a thief gave to the question "Is honesty the best policy." It was in the Elmira reformatory, where a class was undergoing instruction. A young man asked permission to answer the question. "I believe honesty is the best policy," said he, "because of a case where I knew it to work that way. See? There was two young fellows in New York and they was crooked, see? And they didn't succeed. They went to Philadelphia, and they turned over a new leaf and agreed to be square and honest. They opened a clothing store, see? And they prospered. They got everybody's confidence, and they borrowed \$100,000 to enlarge their business, and then they failed and got away with every cent of the money, which they never could have done if they hadn't been honest. See?"

Current for Heating Homes.

According to the Electrical World, electric heating has been seriously tried in a great many places in Norway, and reports made by a royal commission indicate that a pleasant, even temperature is possible with an expenditure of from 30 watts to 35 watts per cubic meter of space—35 cubic feet. This will keep the temperature of a room at 64 degrees Fahrenheit with auxiliary heating when the thermometer registers as low as from 10 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Under these circumstances electric heating is assumed to be cheaper than other fuel when the energy can be supplied at \$7 to \$8.25 per horse power per annum on maximum demand.—Scientific American.

False Eyes for Animals.

Among the most difficult things which taxidermists have to do is making glass eyes for the animals they mount. These eyes are made of glass, hollow within and open at the back, so that the inner surface may be painted any color. No two animals' eyes are alike, and it requires a great deal of skill and practice before a man is competent to paint the eyes quickly. A lion's eye, for example, is large and brownish-black, while the iris is chrome yellow, but streaked in such a peculiar fashion that it is an extremely difficult thing to imitate it well. The eye of a giraffe is still more difficult, as that animal has a brownish-black eye with a peculiar purplish sheen, very hard to imitate.

Women and the Arts.

I believe that woman loves the arts better than does man. She is better ground for the development of a great artist, for she approaches art with sympathy, while the great bulk of men approach it with fear and dislike, shrinking from the idea that it may disturb their self-complacency. The prejudice goes so far that, while women are attracted to artists as lovers, men are generally afraid of women who practice the arts, or they dislike them. It is not a question of sex, it is a question of art.—W. L. George in the Atlantic.

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